

The Marquee

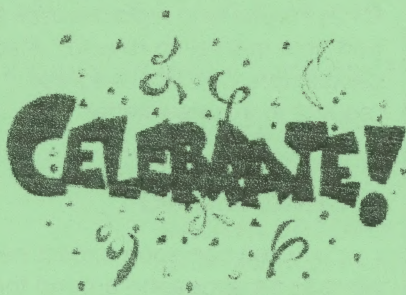
FROM RIC . . .

Things are sailing! I'm so pleased with all your work and excited about the new cooperative agreement with the KAC. I really like working with Eric Hayashi. There is a new sense of hope and future for the arts even in this time of "crunch" finances. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Professional Auditions and at the Convention. Let's talk, talk, talk and plan, plan, plan.

Get your ideas and questions into AKT -- we'll network with and for you. Let's keep moving. Next "Marquee" will have a complete convention program.

AND FROM KIM . . .

Wow! I've just returned from the Kansas Thespian Conference at Southeast High School in Wichita on December 13th and 14th. If you want to talk about a strong future for Kansas Theatre, the Thespian Conference is a good place to start! The Thespians' enthusiasm was contagious from the way they talked about their performance pieces to their support of each other. Of course, these students have great role models in their drama sponsors and supporters headed by Doc Fridell of Manhattan High School. I really appreciate being part of their conference.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM AKT

One of the highlights of the conference was playwright Max Bush, whose presence AKT sponsored with the assistance of a cooperative grant with KAC.

Bush's play, *The Crystal* was performed Friday night by the Lawrence High School Experimental Theatre Troupe and on Friday, Bush also provided two workshops, the first on playwrighting and the second on improvisational games (this one was so popular a repeat workshop was given on Saturday).

It was a great pleasure for me to meet so many AKT members face to face and talk to them about the upcoming professional auditions and the AACT-FEST in Independence next March. Please continue to give me your feedback!

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

AN ADDITION TO THE FAMILY

By Deb Wall

This fall Salina Community Theatre (SCT) Children's Theatre produced its first play, *YOUNG CHEROKEE*, by Kathryn Schultz Miller. The cast of three (Amberley Arpke, Shawn Nyberg & John Zavala) presented the play in 3 public performances and 3 school performances at the theatre and 4 outreach performances (traveling to Sylvan grove, Southeast of Salina, Salina's Stewart Elementary School, and Salina Mennonite Church). Over 1400 people saw this production, which was funded in part through an Arts In Education grant from the KAC and a grant from the Wichita Greyhound Charities.

An exhibit of Cherokee art was on display at SCT throughout the run of performances at the theatre. 18 Cherokee artists from Kansas and Oklahoma were featured. Works included paintings, carving, pottery, basketry, and jewelry. Many craft items and books were also on display. Audiences had time before and after the performance to tour the exhibit and visit with a representative from the American Indian Art Center, Abilene, which coordinated and presented the exhibit. The American Indian Art Center is the premier Native American art gallery in the region. The Center is Kansas' only totally

Native American art gallery and gift shop. It features works of over 80 artists, all enrolled tribal members, representing 30 tribes, but the SCT exhibit focused entirely on Cherokee artists.

In addition to presenting the gallery exhibit, the Center was an invaluable resource for the production of *YOUNG CHEROKEE*. Many of the props used in the production were on loan from the Art Center, and several were made specifically for the production. In addition, personnel from the Center acted as consultants on the production to help SCT Children's Theatre present an accurate production that was respectful of Native American culture. It was an extremely positive collaboration for our very first production. SCT Children's Theatre will present *A THOUSAND CRANES*, also by Kathryn Schultz Miller. Public performances will be given February 28 - March 1. Daytime performances for schools will be given at SCT March 3 - 14, and outreach performances should contact Deb Wall, SCT Education Director, (913) 827-6126. Ticket prices for performances at SCT are very affordable for schools and groups, as is the fee for an outreach performance.

Plans are underway at SCT for the '97-'98 Children's Theatre season. SCT's Education Director and area educators are working together to see how SCT can continue to enhance teaching curricula and entertain children with the magic of live theatre. As SCT Children's Theatre grows, we want to be able to present workshops for students and teachers that will accompany each production. Maybe someday, 5 or 10 years down the road, it will grow into an established, permanent children's theatre company like the Seem-To-Be Players, or Wichita

Children's Theatre. In the meantime, we'll continue to bring live theatre into the lives of children in and around Salina.

****Due to space considerations, Deb Wall's article, has been abbreviated but complete copies are available to any interested company or individual. AKT would like to congratulate Deb Wall on her promotion to education director of Salina Community Theatre and Cindy House who replaces Wall as part-time marketing director. Also, please note Deb Wall's survey request in this newsletter.**

A CHRISTENING

You can soon expect new signs to be appearing around the Washburn University Theatre in Topeka. John Hunter, the Art and Theatre Arts Department Chair at Washburn University, has proposed that the University Theatre be renamed as the Washburn Andrew J. and Georgia Neese Gray Theatre, in memory of the couple who left a trust for Washburn University in their wills. Mr. Gray died in August, 1994, and Mrs. Gray died in October, 1995. The proposal was accepted by the Washburn Board of Regents.

Georgia Neese Gray grew up in Richland, KS, and was a 1921 graduate of Washburn University. She continued her education at the Sargent School of Acting in Carnegie Hall in New York but returned to Kansas during the Depression to become the Richland State Bank President, the job her father had held before his death. In 1949 she became the first female US treasurer. Portraits of the Grays and information about their lives will soon be part of the Washburn

Andrew J. and Georgia Neese Gray Theatre lobby.

THERE'S STILL TIME!!

There's still time to renew your AKT membership. Just \$35 per individual or \$60 for an organizational membership (2 adults and 3 students). Students can join AKT for just \$15 per year per student. And it's important that we receive your membership soon. Current membership names and addresses (since August 1996) are being cross-listed with last year's mailing list and we will soon stop our mailings to persons who are not current members.

****Lost your membership form? No problem. Call 1-800-343-2779 to get a new one (Lawrence residents please call 331-0755). Or write to AKT at PO Box 1873, Lawrence, KS 66044. **Can't wait to receive your form? Send your check made payable to AKT for the desired membership amount, your correct mailing address, and your area of theatre interest, and Kim will fill out the form for you. It doesn't get any better than this!! But please get in touch with us soon. If you have questions, please note the holiday hours below.**

AKT HOLIDAY HOURS

The AKT office will be closed from December 20th - January 8th at which time we will re-open with new hours for the spring. These new hours will be listed on our answering machine (1-800-343-2779) in January and printed in the next "Marquee."





Association of Kansas Theatre

PO Box 1873 • Lawrence, KS 66044
(913) 331-0755 • 1-800-343-2779
Fax: 913-842-7753

PLEASE POST

A U D I T I O N S !

WHAT: REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL AUDITIONS
WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1997
WHERE: OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS (KANSAS CITY)
COST: \$25.00 FOR ACTORS
SPONSORED BY: ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE (AKT)

PRODUCERS, TALENT AGENTS & CASTING DIRECTORS INVITED:

THE AGENCY
BLACK REP *
CARRIE HOUK CASTING
CREEDE REPERTORY
DELICIA AGENCY
EXPOSURE MODEL & TALENT
WENDY GRAY, CASTING DIRECTOR
HOFFMAN INTERNATIONAL
INGERSOL DINNER THEATRE
MTC TALENT AGENCY
NEBRASKA THEATRE CARAVAN *
OFF THE CUFF PRODUCTIONS
PADDOCK PRODUCTIONS
SEEM-TO-BE PLAYERS *
STAGE ONE *
TALENT PLUS
THEATRE FOR YOUNG AMERICA
UNICORN THEATRE *
WRIGHT/LAIRD CASTING

ARVATA CENTER OF ARTS *
CARPENTER'S SQUARE
CIRCUIT 21
CROWN UPTOWN THEATRE
DES MOINES PLAYHOUSE
FULLERTON AGENCY
GREAT PLAINS THEATRE FESTIVAL *
HORSEFEATHERS & APPLESauce
MARTIN CITY MELODRAMA
MUSIC THEATRE OF WICHITA *
NEW THEATRE RESTAURANT *
OMAHA THEATRE COMPANY
PROFESSIONAL EDGE TALENT AGENCY
TRACY SLOAT, CASTING DIRECTOR
STARLIGHT *
TALENT UNLIMITED
UMKC *
WICHITA CENTER FOR THE ARTS *

* Denotes EQUITY positions available

PLEASE NOTE: You will be sent an information packet upon receipt of your \$25.00 registration fee. You will be asked to fill out and return a standard registration form and attach one 3 X 5 (or smaller) black & white photo. All applications must be received by January 15, 1997. Actors should be prepared with additional headshots & resumes FOR PURPOSES OF CALLBACKS. For more information please call *WRIGHT/LAIRD CASTING* at 913/967-7145.

Mail the following information along with your check for \$25.00 payable to "AKT":

Association of Kansas Theatre
P.O. Box 1873
Lawrence, KS 66044

ATTN: ACTOR REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 1997

**1996-1997
ASSOCIATION OF
KANSAS THEATRE
LIST OF SEASONS**

PLEASE CONTACT INDIVIDUAL
THEATRES FOR SPECIFIC
CURTAIN TIMES, MATINEES,
AND TICKET PRICE.

* * *

**THE FAMILY CHILDREN'S
THEATRE**

310 N. MAIN
HUTCHINSON, KS 67501
(316) 662-SHOW

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

DEC. 12 - 22

BUFFALO SOLDIERS

JAN 16 - 19

PATRICK MCCREARY IN ABE

LINCOLN

FEB. 7 - 9

BIG RIVER

FEB. 28 - MARCH 2

FOREVER PLAID

APRIL 10 - 20

* * *

**JOHNSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

BOX OFFICE: 469-4445

**SHE STOOPS TO
CONQUER**

NOV. 21 - 24

CARNIVAL OF ANIMALS

DEC. 5 - 7

CRIMINAL HEARTS

FEB. 20 - 23

A THOUSAND CRANES

MARCH 15

(WILL BE TOURED TO MIDDLE
SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE
SPRING SEMESTER)

**A FUNNY THING HAPPENED
ON THE WAY TO THE
FORUM**

MAY 1 - 4

* * *

**JUNCTION CITY LITTLE
THEATER, INC.**

(913) 238-3871

(913) 238-6220

**YOU'RE A GOOD MAN
CHARLIE BROWN**

SEPT. 27 - 29

OCT. 4 - 5

THE LITTLE FOXES

NOV. 15 - 17

NOV. 22 - 23

I'M HERBERT

JAN 17 - 18

JAN 24 - 25

THE GAZEBO

FEB. 21 - 23

FEB. 28 - MARCH 1

**YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH
YOU**

APRIL 18 - 20

APRIL 26 - 27

* * *

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

(913) 532-6428 OR (913) 532-6875

UNCLE VANYA

OCTOBER 10 - 12

OCTOBER 16 - 19

HAIR

NOV. 14 - 16

THE MEMORANDUM

FEB. 13 - 15

FEB. 19 - 22

DIE FLEDERMAUS

MARCH 13 - 15

SPRINGDANCE '97

APRIL 4 - 5

**LES LIAISONS
DANGEREUSES**

APRIL 17 - 19

APRIL 23 - 26

* * *

ASK AKT

Singer is looking for a piano
player for work and recording gigs.
Kansas City area. Call Terry at (913)
422-5288.

* * *



AKT CHILDREN'S THEATRE DIVISION SURVEY

As Chair of the Children's Theatre Division of AKT, I have been operating under the assumption that this division was limited to established children's theatre companies in the state (all three of them!) However, I've come to the realization that lots of theatres in Kansas produce children's theatre -- community theatres, college and universities, and even some high schools! What I'd like to know is who, when and what. Does your community theatre regularly include a children's theatre production in the season? How about the schools? I remember way, way back when I was in D-Club at Salina High School, we did "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" one year as the Drama Club play (outside in a big Army tent no less!).

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey and return it to me at Salina Community Theatre, or FAX it to me at the theatre (call first so we can plug the FAX phone line in). I will compile all the information to set up a data base of children's theatre producers. At least then we'll know who we are. Then we can figure out how to support each other and help bring theatre into the lives of Kansas children.

--Deb Wall

How often do you produce a children's theatre play?

How many performances do you present per play? For the public? For school children?

When are your performances (time of year & day)?

What children's theatre plays have you produced in the past 5 years?

How much do you charge for admission?

Who directs/ acts in these plays?

What is the greatest obstacle to producing children's theatre in your theatre?

Other comments, ideas, suggestions?



Association of
Kansas Theatre
PO Box 1873
Lawrence, KS 66044

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Forwarding and Address
Correction Requested

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2602 Louisiana
Lawrence KS 66046